



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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-For Immediate Release-

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Arizona Department of Public Safety Seizes 20 Pounds of Cocaine resulting from a Traffic Stop on Interstate 19

On Friday, September 26, 2008 at approximately 08:40 AM, an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Canine Officer conducted a traffic stop northbound on Interstate 19 near Kilometer 94, on a 2001 Chrysler 300m for equipment violations. The driver's behavior gave indicators that are significant to criminal activity and a consent search was conducted of the vehicle. The DPS canine alerted to a non-factory compartment in the rear deck of the vehicle which contained 20 pounds of cocaine.

Detectives from the Counter Narcotics Alliance and the Major Violators Unit responded to conduct the follow-up investigation. The driver of the vehicle, Marina Silva, age 18, from Rio Rico, Arizona, and passenger Rosa Medina Medina, 30 years of age, from Nogales, Sonora were arrested and charged with possession of a dangerous drug, possession of a dangerous drug for sale, and transportation of a dangerous drug for sale and booked into the Pima County Jail. Each suspect's bond was set at \$250,000. The cocaine has an estimated street value of approximately \$160,000 in Southern Arizona.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety Canine Unit has been instrumental in removing over 33,007 pounds of illegal drugs this year from Arizona and the nation's streets. The unit is committed to keeping our communities safer through their successful drug interdiction efforts.

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Photographs are available.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.